

House Republican Press Release

July 29, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Hovey: Bond Commission Okays Funding for Stevenson Dam Bridge Replacement Project



Construction of a new bridge to replace the Route 34 Stevenson Dam Bridge over the Housatonic River in Monroe is expected to get underway in the spring of 2007, state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112th District announced today.

The State Bond Commission today approved funding for the project (along with funding for other state road and bridge projects) as part of an omnibus bonding package for the state Department of Transportation. The \$34,185,000 bridge replacement project includes \$27,348,000 in federal funds and an additional \$6,837,000 in state dollars, Representative Hovey said.

“The existing bridge, which is located on the dam, is in a severely deteriorated condition and needs to be replaced to ensure the safety of the thousands of Monroe residents who use Route 34 on a regular basis,” Representative Hovey said. “I have kept in touch with DOT officials periodically over the past few years to ensure this critical project is not put on the back burner. The final permit should be issued in the spring of 2007 and construction will get underway shortly afterwards.”

“I also have spoken with DOT officials on a number of occasions about environmental concerns relating to this project. I would like to assure residents that DOT will be taking extensive precautions to prevent PCBs on the river bottom from being stirred up when the work starts. The department is sensitive to the problem and is making every effort to ensure that any potential pollution problems are addressed,” Representative Hovey said.

Maintenance work is currently underway to ensure the structural integrity of the existing bridge. The bridge replacement project will be completed in 2009, Representative Hovey said.